

**Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes**  
**2:30 PM – Senior Center                      Monday, Sept. 12, 2005**

**Members:** Please call the Mansfield Senior Center at 429-0262 if you cannot attend.

**PRESENT:** C. Prewitt (guest) **REGRETS:** E. Norris, J. Kenny

**I. Call to Order:** Chair S. Thomas called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM, and introduced prospective member Joe Chasin.

**II. Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

**III. Acceptance of Minutes** of the June 13, 2005 meeting: The minutes were accepted, with the correction of the spelling of Nora Steven's name.

**IV. Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: invitation to a meeting with consultants from Brecht & Associates on assisted living 9/15.

**V. Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

**A. Health Care Services**

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – J. Kenny was not present but P. Hope Distributed copies of her report. P. Hope noted that the Meditation Group is something that started over the summer.

Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation - Jean Kenny. D. Mercier reported that there is no report for this month.

**B. Social, Recreational and Educational**

Senior Center – P. Hope distributed copies of her reports for August and July. She noted that the summer months tend to be less active. We will be hiring a part-time staff person for the kitchen. Eagle Scout candidate Chris Chasin worked this summer planting perennials and repairing window boxes. We also purchased 12 arm chairs for the dining room.

Senior Center Assoc. – J. Brubacher reported that the Association will be sponsoring an auction this Saturday in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Senior Center. On the 21st there will be an anniversary luncheon, which will include people who were formerly involved with the Senior Center. The Association is hoping to use the proceeds to assist in hiring a geriatrician for the Wellness Center.

**C. Housing**

Assisted Living Project – the kick-off meeting will be held this Thursday at the Town Hall. Juniper Hill has started rebuilding the apartments that were destroyed in the December fire. B. Griffin mentioned that four of the units at Wright's Way are handicapped-accessible; members were surprised that there are not

more. The Housing Authority has applied for a grant to convert more apartments to handicapped accessibility. P. Hope pointed out that there are different levels of accessibility. Some concerns were raised regarding what the waiting list is for senior housing at the existing facilities.

Jensen's Park, Other:

#### **D. Related Town and Regional Organizations**

Com. on Physically and Sensorily Impaired: K. Grunwald reported that this summer there was a regional transportation forum held here this summer for people with disabilities. He will be attending a state-wide conference this week on Community Inclusion. This Wed. at 5 there will be a regional meeting at the Senior Center for services to people who have disabilities. Town Community Center: no report

Town Plan of Conservation and Development: there will be a public hearing on the plan on October 12.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT

### **VI.. Old Business**

Report of the Nominating Committee – S. Thomas reported the Nora Stevens and Phil Secker will be rotating off of the committee. The Council thanked them for their service. N. Stevens reported that J. Chasin is considering membership and Mary Thacher has been nominated as a new member for a three year term. A second individual (June Laslofey) was interested, but may be moving out of the area. If she is unavailable, Norman Stevens has agreed to serve. E. Norris has said that she is no longer interested in serving as Vice Chair, and someone will need to assume this position. C. Phillips has agreed to be Chair of the nominating committee.

Preparation of The Long Range Plan - S. Thomas reported that we began this process in April of 2004. K. Grunwald distributed copies of a draft of the long-range plan and went through the plan as it has been developed. He asked that if anyone has changes or additions to survey questions they get them to him by 9/26.

Proposed survey of elderly in Town: K. Grunwald will invite Waldo Klein to the October committee

### **VII . New Business:**

S. Thomas distributed a proposed calendar and agenda for the Commission to work from this year. It identifies areas of interest and issues for concern, including how services for seniors are funded. In general she feels that the Commission needs to be better educated about some of these issues, including non-profit agency funding, transportation, home care services, regional cooperation, and assisted living. K. Doeg made a motion to receive the agenda, which was seconded and approved. One suggestion made is to form a sub-committee to work on the survey, that would then report to the Commission. P. Hope suggested that program reports be sent out with the

October packet to free up more time for this discussion at the next meeting, and this will be done. S. Thomas proposed that she will develop a schedule with speakers to come to Commission meetings on a monthly basis. She also talked about holding one of our meetings at the McSweeney Center. –

Proposed Schedule: Oct.- Waldo Klein, Nov.- Nancy Trawick-Smith, Dec.- Jeff Beadle, Jan.-

### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for TUESDAY, Oct. 11 at 2:30 pm at the Senior Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald